

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-24, 27-31 and 36-37 remain pending following the entry of this Amendment. Claims 1, 5, 7-8, 10-13, 17-20, 22-24, 27-31 and 36-37 have been amended herein. Claims 6, 9, 32, 34 and 35 have been cancelled herein (claims 25-26 and 33 having been canceled previously). No claims or new matter have been added.

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview that took place on October 16, 2007. The undersigned and the Examiner discussed Applicants' desire to amend the claims by rolling the provisions of claims 6 and claim 9 (which was dependent upon claim 6 and indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form) into the current claim 1 so as to make the remainder of the claims dependent upon claim 1 allowable. Applicants' attorney and the Examiner also discussed amendments to address the pending 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection and the pending informality objection to claims 1 and 27.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory matter. More specifically, the Examiner objected to the form of the preamble as not reciting language that allowed the cited instructions to realize their functionality. Applicants have amended the preamble of claim 27 in an attempt to address the Examiner's concerns and believe it now to be in order for allowance.

Objected to Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 27 using the phrase "entry or label" which the Examiner stated was inconsistent with previous recited limitations in the respective claims. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 27 as part of the incorporation of the limitations of claims 6 and 9 and the objected to phrase was deleted as part of the amending process. Accordingly, Applicants believe these objections to now be moot.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated in the current Office Action (page 13) that claims 9-13 were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1 consistent with the discussion in the telephone conference to include the provisions of claim 9 and claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants believe claim 1 to be allowable. Additionally, as claims 2-5, 7-8 and 10-24 depend, directly or indirectly, upon claim 1 and necessarily incorporate all of its elements, Applicants submit that claims 2-5, 7-8 and 10-24 are also now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants have amended claim 27, a medium claim, to correspond to the amended claim 1 and therefore believe claim 27 to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28-31 and 36-37 depend upon claim 27 and Applicants submit that claims 28-31 and 36-37 are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Summary of Amended Claims

In addition to incorporating the claim elements previously found in claims 6 and 9 into independent claims 1 and 27, Applicants also made a number of amendments to address antecedent basis and dependency issues that arose as a result of the amendment of claims 1 and 27.

Applicants note that the amendment of the claims herein should not be construed as an agreement with the Examiner's current position as set forth in the pending Office Action but rather represents a desire to hasten the prosecution of this matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims differing in scope in a future application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 14-24, 27-32 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivette et al (United States Patent Number 5,806,079) in view of Ryan et al. (United States Patent Number 6,421,675 B1). As set forth above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 27 to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 9 and

believe all of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections to now be moot as a result. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of all of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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